



Information Sheet 5

Dioxin: EPA Cross-Media Dioxin Strategy

EPA's existing environmental programs include a broad spectrum of activities directly focused on controlling dioxin emissions and reducing dioxin exposure (see *EPA's Summary of Major EPA Control Efforts* information sheet). The soon-to-be-completed dioxin reassessment will provide a new and expanded scientific understanding of the nature and extent of dioxin exposure and risk. The purpose of the EPA Cross-Media Dioxin Strategy is to review and redirect EPA's dioxin activities to insure that they are responsive to the findings of the dioxin reassessment. The decision to develop an Agency-wide dioxin strategy was first made by Administrator Bill Riley and reconfirmed by Administrator Carol Browner. With the release of the draft reassessment in September of 1994, EPA formally announced its intent to release the draft Cross-Media Dioxin Strategy, concurrent with the completion of the dioxin reassessment. Once the draft strategy is released for public review, EPA will convene a series of public meetings around the country and establish a formal comment period to take public comments.

In developing its dioxin strategy, EPA is thoroughly reviewing its ongoing dioxin activities to insure consistency with the scientific findings of the reassessment. When completed, the reassessment will provide the most complete and up-to-date view of dioxin sources, environmental pathways and levels of human exposure. The strategy will use this information to examine whether there are gaps in existing program efforts. This review includes an examination of the reassessment's dioxin source inventory, and an examination of the adequacy of existing programs to address general population exposure and exposure to special populations such as children and minorities. Particular attention is being paid to strengthening cross media coordination among program components to provide a more integrated and comprehensive approach to dioxin risk reduction.

In developing its dioxin strategy, the Agency is looking for meaningful opportunities for risk reduction. EPA is looking at the potential for reducing dioxin exposure by learning more about source contributions and through pathway intervention. The Agency is also developing an intensified dioxin research strategy focused on resolving the most policy-relevant scientific uncertainties.

By building upon the broad base of existing federal and state dioxin control efforts and the scientific insights of the reassessment, EPA believes the Cross-Media Dioxin Strategy will provide the Agency with the goals and direction it needs for sound management of dioxin risks through the next decade and beyond. While the dioxin reassessment will be one of the primary pieces of information used in the development of the Cross-Media Dioxin Strategy, it is important to note that EPA will not use the conclusions of the draft dioxin reassessment for regulatory purposes until all science peer reviews are completed.

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